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# *Friends of Michigan History, Inc.*

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Michigan Historical Museum**

**Lansing, Michigan**

**April 12, 2010**

### **Call to Order**

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:07 A.M.

*Board Members Present:* Andy Andersen, Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, John Irwin, Rose Moye, Richard Johnson, Ralph Sims, Bus Spaniola, Morris Thomas, and Geneva Wiskemann.

*Board Members Absent:* Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, and Bill Wellman.

*Board Members Excused:* Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, and Bill Wellman.

*Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present:* Martha Bloomfield.

### **Approval of Agenda**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as transmitted; motion passed.***

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 2010 meeting minutes as transmitted; motion passed.***

### **President's Report**

President Spaniola talked briefly about the March 19-20 *Michigan in Perspective: the Local History Conference* that took place in Dearborn, Michigan. He also indicated that he had received the annual report from the Friends of Fayette Historic Townsite and our copy of our Charitable Solicitation License for 2010. Both documents were given to the Board Secretary.

A discussion ensued about methods to raise funds. Morris Thomas suggested the possibility of arranging a volunteer speaker (including himself -- historical program) at a program that the public could be charged to attend. Another suggestion was to get together with a local Rotary club and jointly arrange for a speaker on a history topic. The key is promotion and publicity. It was suggested that the Friends could do something in conjunction with Michigan Week. It also was indicated that we could work with the Docent Guild to obtain a speaker. Andy Andersen indicated that he would ask about this with the Docent Guild.

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## Treasurer Report

March 1 - 31, 2010			
BALANCE	3-01-10		6,029.29
DEPOSIT			
	3-19-10		+ 351.30
			6,380.59
Cashed Checks			
1491	Berndt	175.00	
1492	Torongo	100.00	
1494	Ryal	200.00	
1495	HSOM	1,186.50	
1496	Surety Bond	100.00	
1497	Spanolia	35.00	
Total		1,796.50	- 1,796.50
BALANCE	3-31-10		4,584.09
Uncashed Checks			
1498	Statehood Day	150.00	
1499	Historic Ft Wayne	75.00	
Total		225.00	- 225.00
Available Funds			..4,359.09
Benevolent Fund	\$ 50.00		

***A motion was made and seconded to approve, as transmitted the Treasurer's report for the period March 1 – 31, 2010; motion passed.***

A copy of the electronic IRS approval dated March 21, 2010 for the Friends Form 990-N for 2009 was given to the Board Secretary by the Board Treasurer.

## Presentation of Bills

No bills that were not otherwise previously approved were presented.

## Museum Report

Nothing to report.

## Committee Reports

A. *2010 Veterans Day Program Committee. (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs):* It was reported that there was a possibility that the Friends could obtain as a speaker for the 2010 program Col. Victor Kucher, US Air Force, Col. Kucher is retiring from the Air Force on June 4, 2010. He has been to Afghanistan 52 times. Larry Griffin indicated that he would follow up on this lead.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* No report.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott).* Both President Spaniola and Board Secretary Harrison announced that they would not be seeking their current Board positions in June.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair).* No report.

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E. *Grants Committee (Rose Moyer - Chair)*. No report. Rose Moyer was appointed the new chair of this committee.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman, Co-chairs)*. No report.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. Additional ideas were discussed for possible fund raising. Andy Andersen suggested the possibility of having Casino nights. President Spaniola suggested the possibility of a calendar program. Under this program, 1,000 calendars are printed with each being sold for \$25. Advertisements also are sold for placement in the calendar. A drawing takes place each day with the winner capable of winning between \$25 to \$100. The concern was expressed that the item needs to be sold, which would entail complete participation by all the Board members in order to make something like this work. The Friends also could collaborate with some other group to help sell the calendars. The Friends would need to obtain a lottery license for this. Martha Bloomfield suggested that the state's various satellite museum sites could be used for the calendar photographs. Another suggestion for a photograph theme could be Michigan's role in the Civil War.

H. *Calendar (2011) Committee (Tom Truscott & Rose Moyer, Co-chairs)*. No report.

I. *Bylaws (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. It was indicated that the committee still needed to get the proposed bylaw amendments to the Board to review.

### **Old Business**

A. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

### **New Business**

There was no new business brought before the Board.

### **Announcements**

It was indicated that the Oakland County Historical Commission would be holding a half-day information session on Saturday, May 1, 2010 entitled Planning for the Civil War Sesquicentennial in Your Community 2011 - 1015. Additional information could be obtained by contacting Karen Kotulis-Carter at 248-642-5800.

Secretary Harrison indicated that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were holding another free Civil War seminar on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. A flier is attached.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

Respectively submitted,

*Keith G. Harrison*

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

**The next Board meeting will be Monday, May 10, 2010, in Lansing.**

**Curtenius Guard Camp #17**  
**Department of Michigan**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Samuel W. Grinnell GAR Post #283  
115 Main Street, Sunfield, Michigan  
<http://suvchw.org/mi/017/017home.htm>

**Free Civil War History Seminar**  
**“Stonewall Jackson's Final Days”**

The Lansing/Sunfield, Curtenius Guard Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) will be sponsoring the next in its series of -Free- Civil War History Seminars on **Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 7pm, at the Brethren Church located at 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43), in Sunfield Michigan.** The church is located approx ½ mile west of the four corners (Sunfield Hwy & M-43) where you turn at to go to the village of Sunfield (Note that this is a new location from the previous year's seminars).

The presenter will be Mr. David Finney. Many of you know him as the announcer/narrator of the mock battles held each year in August, at the **Jackson, Michigan Cascades Civil War Muster**, the largest Civil War Reenactment in the Midwest. The topic of Mr. Finney's presentation will be **“Stonewall Jackson's Final Days.”** The presentation will discuss the wounding, death, and funeral of Confederate General Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson.

After Robert E Lee, Stonewall Jackson was one of the best-known Generals of the Confederacy. In 1842, he was accepted to West Point, where he graduated 17th out of 59 students. He then began his career as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Mexican War. In 1851, he accepted a teaching position at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) as a professor of philosophy, where he also taught artillery tactics. Although brilliant at tactics, Jackson was not a popular teacher due to his stern religious nature & eccentric personality.



In 1859, he led a contingent of cadets from VMI to provide security at the hanging of the abolitionist John Brown. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Jackson sided with the Confederacy becoming a drillmaster for the Confederate army. He commanded the now famous “Stonewall Brigade” at the 1st Battle of Bull Run. He received his nickname “Stonewall” during this battle, because he and his unit never retreated but stood as solid as a “Stone Wall” enabling the Confederacy to win the battle.

During the Battle of Chancellorsville, Jackson and his staff were returning to camp when they were mistaken for Union Calvary by his own troops. Several of his staff were killed. Jackson was shot three times, twice in the left arm and once in the right hand. Due to severe wounds, his left arm had to be amputated. Shortly after, he contracted pneumonia and lay near death. On the night that General Robert E. Lee learned of Jackson's wounding and imminent death, he sent him a message, telling him, *“You have lost your left arm, but I my right”*.

Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson died on May 10, 1863. He is buried at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Lexington Virginia. His amputated arm was buried separately by his chaplain, near the field hospital where he was treated for his wounds.

**About the Presenter.** David Finney retired from North Farmington High School in 2006 as Chairman of the Department of History and Social Studies. He is an adjunct professor of Civil War History at Oakland Community College, and has served as a seasonal historian at both Spotsylvania and Petersburg National Military Parks. Dave is a nationally recognized scholar and lecturer regarding Civil War History. He has written numerous articles on Civil War history that have appeared in *Michigan History Magazine* and other periodicals, as well contributing as an advisor on 10 Civil War documentaries as well as a consultant with the History Channel. Come join Dave Finney as he **brings Civil War history alive** with his presentation on “*Stonewall Jackson's Final Days.*”



Directions and maps to the meeting location can be viewed by visiting the Curtenius Guard, Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War website at <http://suvvw.org/mi/017/017home.htm> and clicking on the **Announcement** link.

Maps to Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Highway, Sunfield, Michigan

